

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 10 to 16, 19 to 22, 24 to 31, 34, 36 to 41 and 44, without prejudice or disclaimer.

REMARKS

In the Communication mailed March 5, 1999, the Examiner indicated that this application is in condition for allowance except for the presence of claims 10 to 16, 19 to 22, 24 to 31, 34, 36 to 41 and 44 which are drawn to a non-elected invention.

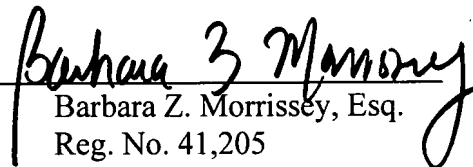
In response, Applicants cancel the non-elected claims without prejudice, and expressly reserve the right to pursue the subject matter of the non-elected claims in a divisional application.

It is respectfully asserted that this amendment places this application in condition for allowance. Prompt issuance of a Notice of Allowance with claims 17, 18, 23, 32, 33, 35, 42, 43 and 45 to 53 is earnestly solicited.

No fee is believed to be due for entry and consideration of this amendment. However, if any fee is determined to be due, the Examiner is authorized to charge any fee or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

Respectfully submitted,
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